

PATENT

Before the Examiner: S. Rawlings

Group Art Unit: 1642

Sir:

During discussions with the Examiner on May 15, 2002, Applicants learned that the Examiner would not be in the office on May 16, 2002, and would return to the office on May 17, 2002. As the instant response is being provided by facsimile on May 16, 2002, Applicants believe that the Examiner will actually receive this paper at the same time as if it had been transmitted earlier, and will have sufficient time to respond to Applicants' amendment filed February 11, 2002. Applicants' representative is available by telephone for the entirety of the period between this response and June 11, 2002 to provide any information or assistance the Examiner requires.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments.